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Report on the fifty-third session (21 February 2014 and 4-13 February 2015)

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Commission for Social Development

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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Summary

At its fifty-third regular session, held on 21 February 2014 and from 4 to 13 February 2015, the Commission for Social Development considered the priority theme for its 2015-2016 review and policy cycle, "Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world". The Commission also reviewed relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups and the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

The Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, addressed the opening meeting of the session. During its eight-day session, in addition to its general discussions, the Commission convened two panel discussions, one on the priority theme and the other on item 3 (c) of its agenda, namely, Emerging issues: contributions of social development to the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals. In addition, the Commission convened a commemorative event for the twentieth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development, which had been held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995. At the event, statements were delivered by the Secretary-General, the Acting President of the General Assembly, the Vice President of the Economic and Social Council and the Permanent Representative of Denmark (as the host country of the Summit) to the United Nations. Following the statements, a keynote address, transmitted via video link, was delivered by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Interregional Policy Cooperation and Chair of the Preparatory Committee of the World Summit for Social Development, Juan Somavía. The commemoration included an interactive panel discussion on the theme "Social development: from Copenhagen to the post-2015 development agenda".

The Chair's summaries of the panel discussions are available from the website of the Commission (http://undesadspd.org/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/Sessions/2015.aspx). As a contribution of the Commission to the 2015 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, the Chair will send a letter to the President of the Economic and Social Council containing a summary of the deliberations of the fifty-third session of the Commission.

In connection with its review of the relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups, the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the rights of persons with disabilities, at the invitation of the Commission, briefed the Commission on her vision and work plan under the purview of the newly established mandates of the Human Rights Council and had a follow-up interaction with participants.

The Chair of the NGO Committee for Social Development reported to the Commission on the outcome of the Civil Society Forum. For the first time in the history of the Commission, a youth representative, who had participated in the Economic and Social Council Youth Forum, intervened by bringing to the attention of the Commission issues discussed during the Forum that were relevant to the work of the Commission.

During its panel discussion and general debate on the priority theme, the Commission emphasized that sustainable development must be people-centred and

inclusive, and must integrate the social, economic and environmental aspects of development — the vision and principles of the World Summit for Social Development that are gaining renewed recognition today. Building on the lessons learned in implementing the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, Member States shared good policies and practices, and effective strategies for advancing social development beyond 2015.

Rethinking and strengthening social development requires a new transformative approach that facilitates ways in which to effectively address complex and increasingly interrelated challenges, particularly those that have emerged or intensified in recent years, such as widening inequality, changing population dynamics, increased migration flows and climate change. In that regard, the Commission underscored the fundamental role of national Governments in advancing and financing social development. The Commission also noted that since the Summit, the world had reduced the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by half. However, more than 1 billion people remained poor. Rates of unemployment, particularly among youth and other disadvantaged and marginalized social groups also remained unacceptably high. Many countries also continued to grapple with the challenge of fostering social inclusion. Vulnerabilities were also becoming more acute, with the poor and disadvantaged social groups bearing the brunt. The opportunities presented by the ongoing preparations to formulate a post-2015 development agenda, including how social policy could effectively contribute to achieving sustainable development goals and how best to integrate the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development provided the Commission with a unique opportunity to rethink and strengthen social development.

During the interactive dialogue to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development, the Commission emphasized that, while enormous progress had been made since the Summit, many challenges persisted. Participants reaffirmed that the vision, principles and goals adopted at the Summit continued to be as relevant today as they were 20 years ago and urged further integration in the post-2015 development agenda of the three major goals of the Summit: poverty eradication; productive employment and decent work for all; and social integration. The need for a paradigm shift that would put the well-being of all people at the core of the post-2015 development agenda was highlighted.

During the panel discussion on the contributions of social development to the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals, the Commission emphasized that productive and decent jobs, comprehensive and well-designed social policies, social protection and institutional capacity to implement, monitor and ensure accountability were essential to achieving socially, economically and environmentally sustainable development. Social protection was identified as a key tool for reducing poverty, inequality and exclusion, and for enhancing resilience to shocks. Political will was also highlighted as an important factor contributing towards establishing a comprehensive and coordinated approach at the national level. The Commission also pointed out that a rights-based approach was critical for people-centred development and that it should be reflected in the sustainable development goals. While positive synergy among the three dimensions of sustainable development should be pursued, potential trade-offs among them needed to be explicitly addressed and analysed at the outset.

The Commission also held general discussions on issues related to social groups.

The Commission highlighted the need to adopt a life-course approach to the post-2015 development agenda and to pay closer attention to the challenges posed by a lack of data on older persons. Some Member States called for protecting the rights of older persons by complementing existing national and regional frameworks with multilateral initiatives, including the elaboration of an international legal instrument on older persons. The upcoming start of the third review and appraisal of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, was welcomed.

Families were described as living and dynamic entities that continued to change over time and across the world. Providing better support for families, enhancing the well-being of children and ensuring work-family balance constituted crucial elements for a better quality of life and overall economic and social development. Following the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014, efforts should continue to be made to promote family-oriented policies and programmes, especially in the areas of housing, education and care arrangements having an intergenerational focus. Intensified efforts to prevent violence within families and end child marriage had been undertaken by a growing number of countries.

The Commission indicated that a growing commitment to strengthening youth participation had been made at the national and international levels. A youth representative from the Youth Forum stressed the importance of including youth and youth indicators in the post-2015 development processes. Discussions also touched upon various policy initiatives to address youth unemployment and the need to offer quality education and training for a successful transition into the labour market. Several Member States shared good practices in mainstreaming youth in national strategies and sectorial policies.

The Commission adopted three draft resolutions that were recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council, on:

(a) Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, in which the Commission highlighted the importance of the social dimension of the Partnership and called upon Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and relevant stakeholders to make concerted efforts to promoting social development in Africa;

(b) Modalities for the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, in which the Commission endorsed the timeline and modalities for carrying out the third review and appraisal of the Plan of Action and decided that the global review would be held in 2018;

(c) Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the post-2015 development agenda, in which the Commission decided to hold a multi-stakeholder panel discussion during the fifty-fourth session of the Commission, with a view to further elaborating the ways in which existing mechanisms and entities within the United Nations system could contribute to strengthening the mainstreaming of disability, enhancing awareness and cooperation at all levels on the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and considering the possibility and modalities of another monitoring mechanism.

The Commission also adopted a resolution on policies and programmes involving youth, which is brought to the attention of the Council. In the resolution, the Commission encouraged Member States to ensure a coherent and mutually reinforcing approach while implementing all relevant agreed frameworks, including the World Programme of Action for Youth and the post-2015 development agenda. It also urged Member States to ensure the full enjoyment by all young people of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, at its fifty-fifth session, a comprehensive report on the implementation of the resolution and of the World Programme of Action for Youth, in consultation with Member States, relevant entities of the United Nations system and youth organizations.

Contents

Chapter		*Page*
I.	Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention	8
	A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council	8
	B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council	27
	C. Decision calling for action by the Council	28
	D. Resolution and decision brought to the attention of the Council	29
II.	Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly	33
	A. Priority theme: rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world	34
	B. Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups	36
	C. Emerging issues: contributions of social development to the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals	38
III.	Programme questions and other matters	39
	A. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017	39
	B. United Nations Research Institute for Social Development	39
IV.	Provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission	40
V.	Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-third session	41
VI.	Organization of the session	42
	A. Opening and duration of the session	42
	B. Attendance	42
	C. Election of officers	42
	D. Agenda and organization of work	43
	E. Documentation	44
Annex		
	List of documents before the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-third session	45

Chapter I
Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,[1] and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,[2] reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000[3] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[4] and recalling the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[5] the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development of 16 September 2002,[6] General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[7]

Recognizing the commitments made with regard to meeting the special needs of Africa at the 2005 World Summit and reaffirmed in the political declaration on Africa's development needs adopted at the high-level meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 22 September 2008,[8] and noting the conclusions of the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, held in Ouagadougou on 8 and 9 September 2004, including relevant decisions of African Union summits related to the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Recalling the first session of the African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of Social Development, held in Windhoek from 27 to 31 October 2008, the second session of the Conference of Ministers, held in Khartoum from 21 to

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* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 5-9.

[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

[3] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[4] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[5] General Assembly resolution 65/1.

[6] General Assembly resolution 57/2.

[7] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

[8] General Assembly resolution 63/1.

25 November 2010 on the theme "Strengthening social policy action towards social inclusion", and the third session of the Conference of Ministers, held in Addis Ababa from 26 to 30 November 2012, welcoming the fourth session of the Conference of Ministers, held in Addis Ababa from 26 to 30 May 2014 on the theme "Strengthening the African family for inclusive development in Africa", recalling in this regard the African Common Position on Social Integration and the Social Policy Framework for Africa, both of which were endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in February 2009, as well as the African Common Position on Good Practices in Family Policy Development and Implementation, for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family (2014), and the renewed Continental Plan of Action on the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2010-2019), which were endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in January 2013, and taking note of the African Common Position on the Human Rights of Older Persons in Africa,

Noting the full integration of the New Partnership for Africa's Development[9] into the structures and processes of the African Union,

Noting with appreciation the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa adopted by the African Union, which calls for the creation of an enabling environment for adequate investments and the adoption of the sector reforms needed to produce the expected results aimed at promoting economic and social development and reducing poverty in the continent through the implementation of integrated regional infrastructure networks,

Welcoming the ministerial statements on the themes "Unleashing Africa's potential as a pole of global growth", "Industrialization for an emerging Africa", and "Industrialization for Inclusive and Transformative Development in Africa", adopted by the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development at their fifth, sixth and seventh joint meetings, held in Addis Ababa on 26 and 27 March 2012, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 25 and 26 March 2013, and in Abuja, Nigeria, on 29 and 30 March 2014, respectively, and the consensus statement on the theme "Governing and harnessing natural resources for Africa's development" adopted at the eighth African Development Forum, held in Addis Ababa from 23 to 25 October 2012,

Remaining concerned that, while Africa continues to make steady progress towards attainment of the targets of the Millennium Development Goals, this progress is, however, not enough for all countries to attain all of the Goals by 2015, and in this regard emphasizing that concerted efforts and continued support are required to fulfil the commitments to address the special needs of Africa,

Noting with concern the continued prevalence of child, early and forced marriage, and welcoming in this regard the Africa-wide campaign to end child marriage in Africa launched at the Conference of Ministers of Social Development held in Addis Ababa from 26 to 30 May 2014,

Expressing concern that attainment of the social development objectives may be hindered by the ongoing adverse impacts of the world financial and economic crisis, volatile energy and food prices and challenges posed by climate change,

[9] A/57/304, annex.

Recognizing that, while global growth is returning, there is a need to further strengthen the recovery, which is still uneven, stressing the urgent need for full recovery and sustained and accelerated growth, which translates into new employment opportunities, secure incomes and improved livelihoods, and reaffirming the need to continue to support the special needs of Africa and to take action to mitigate the multidimensional impacts of the crisis on the continent,

Stressing that addressing Africa's special development needs should be given due attention in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda,

Expressing grave concern at the recent Ebola outbreak in West Africa and its unprecedented nature and scope,

Expressing deep concern about the potential reversal of the gains made in recent years by the three countries most affected by the Ebola outbreak in the areas of peacebuilding, political stability and the reconstruction of socioeconomic infrastructure,

Noting that Africa is abundantly endowed with natural resources, including many industrial minerals and agricultural resources that are exported mainly in primary form, and that the exploitation of the natural resources sector in Africa has for many years attracted foreign direct investment in capital-intensive enclave sectors that has the potential, when paired with appropriate policies, including employment-intensive policies, to spur structural transformation, create employment, contribute to poverty eradication and reduce inequality,

Emphasizing that the African Union and the regional economic communities have a critical role to play in the implementation of the New Partnership, and in this regard encouraging African countries, with the assistance of their development partners, to increase and coordinate effectively their support for enhancing the capacities of these institutions and to promote regional cooperation and social and economic integration in Africa,

Recognizing the regional coordination mechanism of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development Programme of Action, as well as the Planning and Coordinating Agency of the New Partnership as a technical body of the African Union, which aims to ensure coordination and coherence in the delivery of support for greater effectiveness and impact through increased joint programming and joint implementation of activities,

Noting the decision of the General Assembly to strengthen the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa,[10] enabling it to effectively fulfil its mandate, including by monitoring and reporting on progress related to meeting the special needs of Africa,

Recognizing that capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and best practices are essential for the successful implementation of the New Partnership, and recognizing also the need for continued support from the international community, partners of the New Partnership and United Nations agencies to continue to work towards sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and development on the African continent, and for greater synergy and effective coordination between the New

[10] See General Assembly resolution 68/247 A, sect. VIII.

Partnership and the international initiatives related to Africa, and emphasizing the importance of the close collaboration of the African Union Commission and the United Nations as the co-organizers of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development,

Recognizing also that investments in people, especially their social protection, health and education, are essential to enhancing agricultural productivity and performance, and thereby key to growth and poverty reduction, through increasing decent job creation and employability opportunities, especially for women and youth, improving food security and nutrition and building resilience,

Recognizing further that the lack of access to drinking water and proper sanitation contributes to slow progress in reducing Africa's disease burden, particularly among the poorest populations, in both rural and urban areas, and conscious of the impact of the lack of sanitation on people's health, poverty reduction efforts, economic and social development and the environment, in particular water resources,

Noting with appreciation that the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative and bilateral donors have provided substantial debt relief to 35 countries that have reached the completion point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, which has considerably reduced their debt vulnerability and enabled them to increase their investments in social services,

Bearing in mind that African countries have primary responsibility for their own economic and social development, that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized and that the development efforts of such countries need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, and in this regard recalling the support given by the International Conference on Financing for Development to the New Partnership,[11]

Taking note of other initiatives, such as the first high-level meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation on the theme "Building towards an inclusive post-2015 development agenda", held in Mexico City on 15 and 16 April 2014,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[12]

2. *Welcomes* the progress made by African Governments in fulfilling their commitments in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development[9] to deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management, and encouraging them, with the participation of stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify their efforts in this regard by developing and strengthening institutions for governance and creating an environment conducive to attracting foreign direct investment for the development of the region;

3. *Also welcomes* the good progress that has been made in implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism, as reflected in particular by the number of countries that have signed up to participate in the Mechanism, the completion of

[11] See *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[12] E/CN.5/2015/2.

the peer review process in some countries, the progress in implementing the recommendations of those reviews in those countries and the completion of the annual progress reports and self-assessment processes, the hosting of country support missions and the launching of national preparatory processes for the peer review in others, and urges African States that have not yet done so to join the Mechanism as a matter of priority and to strengthen the peer review process so as to ensure its efficient performance;

4. *Further welcomes* the adoption of the Agenda 2063 framework document by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its twenty-fourth ordinary session, held in Addis Ababa on 30 and 31 January 2015, as the African Union long-term strategy emphasizing industrialization, youth employment, improved natural resource governance and the reduction of inequalities;

5. *Welcomes* the decision on the organization of an extraordinary summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union to assess the progress in implementation of the 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment and Poverty Alleviation, to be organized by the African Union;

6. *Recognizes* the progress that has been made in the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, particularly through the mechanism of the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative, under which impressive progress has been recorded in the conception of many critical infrastructure projects on the continent;

7. *Stresses* that industrialization is a critical engine of economic and social development, and emphasizes the need to accelerate Africa's industrialization by the adoption and implementation of specific measures and actions at the national, regional and continental levels and with the support of and in collaboration with development partners and the international community;

8. *Also stresses* the importance of taking measures to promote the dynamic diversification of African economies through transforming African economies from resource dependence, increasing local processing of and value addition to natural resources in order to expand the domestic economy and increase revenue, and developing new industries in order to transform lives and create opportunities for more and better jobs;

9. *Welcomes* the efforts made by African countries and regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, to mainstream a gender perspective and the empowerment of women and girls in the implementation of the New Partnership, including the implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa;

10. *Also welcomes* the decision taken by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its twenty-third ordinary session, held in Malabo on 26 and 27 June 2014 to proclaim 2015 the Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063;

11. *Stresses* the importance of improving maternal and child health, and in this regard welcomes the declaration of the African Union summit on maternal, infant and child health and development, held in Kampala from 19 to 27 July 2010, and acknowledges the ongoing activities of the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa;

12. *Encourages* African countries to prioritize investments in building the institutional capacity of health systems, reduce health inequities within and across countries, progressively achieve universal health coverage, strengthen global health security and curb the outbreak of major diseases;

13. *Invites* development partners to continue to assist African countries in their efforts to strengthen national health systems, including by providing skilled health personnel, reliable health information and data, research infrastructure and laboratory capacity, and to expand surveillance systems in the health sector, including support for the efforts to prevent, protect against and combat outbreaks of diseases, including of neglected tropical diseases, and in this context reiterates its support for the Kampala Declaration and Agenda for Global Action and follow-up conferences to respond to the serious health workforce crisis in Africa;

14. *Notes with appreciation* the debt relief offered by international financial institutions to the countries most affected by the Ebola crisis, and invites consideration of further measures by partner countries to facilitate long-term debt management sustainability, including by enhancing debt management capabilities in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone and by considering additional debt relief on a case-by-case basis in order to alleviate the impact of the crisis on the economies of these countries and to assist in their economic recovery and development;

15. *Encourages* Member States to intensify global partnerships for development as a means to achieve and sustain the targets of the Millennium Development Goals on water and sanitation;

16. *Also encourages* Member States to expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries, particularly African countries, in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies;

17. *Emphasizes* that progress in the implementation of the New Partnership depends also on a favourable national and international environment for Africa's growth and development, including measures to promote a policy environment conducive to private sector development and entrepreneurship and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

18. *Also emphasizes* that democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society and effective participation by civil society, including non-governmental and community-based organizations, and the private sector are among the indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

19. *Further emphasizes* that the increasingly unacceptable high levels of poverty, inequality and social exclusion faced by most African countries require a comprehensive approach to the development and implementation of social and economic policies, inter alia, to reduce poverty, to promote economic activity, growth and sustainable development in order to ensure employment creation and decent work for all, to promote education, health and social protection and to enhance equality, social inclusion, political stability, democracy and good governance at all levels and the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

20. *Emphasizes* that identifying and removing barriers to opportunity, as well as ensuring access to basic social protection and social services, are necessary to break the cycle of poverty, inequality and social exclusion;

21. *Encourages* African countries to continue to prioritize structural transformation, modernize smallholder agriculture, add value to primary commodities, improve public and private institutions of economic and political governance and invest in major public infrastructure projects and in education and health in order to promote inclusive growth, generate full and productive employment and decent work for all and reduce poverty;

22. *Emphasizes* that economic development, including employment-intensive resource-based industrial development, infrastructural development and structural transformation, in particular in the rural economy, based on pragmatic and targeted policies to enhance productive capacities in Africa that are consistent with national development priorities and international commitments, can generate employment and income for all African men and women, including the poor, and therefore be an engine for poverty eradication and for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

23. *Underlines* the fact that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of allocating 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015 and the target of allocating between 0.15 and 0.20 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to the least developed countries, and urges developed countries that have not yet done so to fulfil their commitments for official development assistance to developing countries;

24. *Stresses* the essential role that official development assistance plays in complementing, leveraging and sustaining financing for development efforts in developing countries and in facilitating the achievement of development objectives, including the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals, and welcomes steps to improve the effectiveness and quality of aid based on the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results, inclusive development partnerships and transparency and mutual accountability;

25. *Recognizes* that, while social development is primarily the responsibility of Governments, international cooperation and assistance are essential for the full achievement of that goal;

26. *Also recognizes* the contribution made by Member States to the implementation of the New Partnership in the context of South-South cooperation, and encourages the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of African countries, including through trilateral cooperation;

27. *Welcomes* the various important initiatives undertaken by Africa's development partners in recent years, and in this regard emphasizes the importance of coordination in such initiatives on Africa through ensuring the effective implementation of existing commitments, including through the African Union/New Partnership for Africa's Development African Action Plan 2010-2015: Advancing

Regional and Continental Integration in Africa, which remains at the centre of the continent's engagement with partners;

28. *Encourages* African countries to intensify their efforts to strengthen national statistical capacity in order to produce reliable and timely statistics and indicators for the monitoring of national development policies and strategies and the implementation of commitments and the achievement of all development goals at the national, regional and international levels, and in this regard urges donor countries and organizations and the international and regional statistical communities to support African countries in strengthening statistical capacity in support of development;

29. *Urges* continuous support for measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa, with special emphasis on the Millennium Development Goals related to poverty and hunger, health, education, the empowerment of women and gender equality, including, as appropriate, debt relief, improved market access, support for the private sector and entrepreneurship, enhanced official development assistance, increased foreign direct investment and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, reduced cost of sending remittances through official channels, the empowerment of women in all aspects, including economic and political aspects, the promotion of social protection systems and the conclusion of the Doha round of negotiations of the World Trade Organization;

30. *Underlines* the importance for African Governments to build the productive capacity of agriculture, as a top priority, in order to increase rural incomes and ensure access to food for net food buyers, and stresses that greater efforts should be made to promote and implement sustainable agriculture, increase access for smallholder farmers, in particular women, to necessary agricultural resources, including productive assets, and improve access to infrastructure, information and markets, and that, furthermore, efforts should be made to promote small and medium-sized enterprises that contribute to job growth and increase incomes along the agricultural value stream;

31. *Urges* African Governments, within the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, to expand investment financing to agriculture to at least 10 per cent of the annual budget of the national public sector while at the same time ensuring necessary action in policy and institutional reforms for enhanced performance of the agriculture industry and systems;

32. *Recognizes* the need for Africa's development partners that are supporting agriculture, food security and nutrition in Africa to align their efforts more specifically towards supporting the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, using the Programme's investment plans for alignment of external funding, and in this regard takes note of the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security;[13]

33. *Also recognizes* that the implementation of the commitments made by Governments during the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) has fallen short of expectations, and welcomes the proclamation of the Second Decade (2008-2017) by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/205 of

[13] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

19 December 2007 in order to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the internationally agreed development goals related to poverty eradication, including the Millennium Development Goals;

34. *Urges* African countries to pay close attention to inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth capable of being employment-intensive, including through employment-intensive investment programmes, which should be aimed at reducing inequalities, increasing employment and improving real per capita incomes in both rural and urban areas;

35. *Emphasizes* the need, in particular for African countries, to enhance capacity-building for sustainable development, and in this regard calls for the strengthening of technical and scientific cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and reiterates the importance of human resources development, including through training, the exchange of experience and expertise, knowledge transfer and technical assistance for capacity-building, which involves strengthening institutional capacity, including planning, management and monitoring capacities;

36. *Also emphasizes* the importance of increasing international cooperation to improve the quality of and access to education, in particular for African countries, including through building and strengthening education-related infrastructure and increasing investment in education, and in this regard notes the Global Education First Initiative of the Secretary-General and its objectives and invites Member States to contribute to the Initiative, as appropriate, including through the allocation of adequate resources;

37. *Urges* African countries and development partners to meet the needs of young people and empower them, in particular by tackling the high levels of youth unemployment through the development of education and training programmes that address illiteracy, enhance the employability and capabilities of young people, facilitate school-to-work transitions and expand guaranteed employment schemes, where appropriate, with particular attention to disadvantaged young people in both rural and urban areas;

38. *Recognizes* that improving access to school for all girls and boys, especially the poorest and most vulnerable and marginalized, and their ability to receive a quality education, and improving the quality of education beyond primary school can have a positive impact in terms of empowerment and on social, economic and political participation and thus on the fight against poverty and hunger and can contribute directly to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

39. *Also recognizes* that Africa's youthful population creates significant opportunities for the continent's development, and underlines in this regard the importance of African countries creating appropriate policy environments to take advantage of the continent's demographic transition while adopting an inclusive results-based approach to development planning and implementation in accordance with national priorities and legislation;

40. *Encourages* Governments, international organizations, other relevant institutions and stakeholders, as appropriate, to provide relevant skills training for youth, high-quality health-care services and dynamic labour markets to employ a growing population;

41. *Calls upon* the international community to enhance support and fulfil its commitments to take further action in areas critical to Africa's economic and social development, and welcomes the efforts by development partners to strengthen cooperation with the New Partnership;

42. *Welcomes* the increasing efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance and to increase its development impact, recognizes the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, notes other initiatives, such as the high-level forums on aid effectiveness, which produced, inter alia, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action[14] and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, which make important contributions to the efforts of the countries that have made commitments to them, including through the adoption of the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization and managing for results, and further welcomes the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[15] adopted on 2 December 2008, and bears in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee effective assistance and that the specific situation of each country needs to be fully considered;

43. *Recognizes* the need for Governments and the international community to continue to make efforts to increase the flow of new and additional resources for financing for development from all sources, public and private, domestic and foreign, to support the development of African countries, and welcomes the various important initiatives established between African countries and their development partners in this regard;

44. *Acknowledges* the activities of the Bretton Woods institutions and the African Development Bank in African countries, and invites those institutions to continue their support for the implementation of the priorities and objectives of the New Partnership;

45. *Expresses deep concern* that illicit financial flows and poor legal, fiscal and regulatory frameworks for mineral resources undermine national development efforts, encourages African countries to take measures to address these challenges, and invites development partners to continue to assist African countries in tackling illicit financial flows;

46. *Encourages* Africa's development partners to continue to integrate the priorities, values and principles of the New Partnership into their development assistance programmes;

47. *Encourages* African countries and their development partners to place people at the centre of government development action, to secure core investment spending in health, education and social protection and to give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems, recognizing that social protection floors can provide a basis from which to address poverty and vulnerability, and in this regard takes note of Recommendation No. 202 concerning

[14] A/63/539, annex.

[15] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

national floors of social protection, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 101st session, on 14 June 2012;

48. *Notes* the growing collaboration among the entities of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, and requests the Secretary-General to promote greater coherence in the work of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, on the basis of the agreed clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa;[16]

49. *Emphasizes* the importance for the cluster working on communication, advocacy and outreach to continue to muster international support for the New Partnership and to urge the United Nations system to demonstrate more evidence of cross-sectoral synergies to promote a comprehensive approach with regard to successive phases of planning and implementation of social development programmes in Africa;

50. *Invites* the Secretary-General, as a follow-up to the 2005 World Summit, to urge the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue to assist African countries in implementing quick-impact initiatives, based on their national development priorities and strategies, to enable them to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and in this respect acknowledges commitments made by development partners;

51. *Encourages* the international community to support African countries in addressing the challenges of climate change by mobilizing and providing the financial and technological resources and capacity-building training needed to support adaptation and mitigation action;

52. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to continue to discuss in its annual programme of work those regional programmes that promote social development so as to enable all regions to share experiences and best practices, with the agreement of concerned countries, and in this regard requests that the work programmes of the Commission include priority areas of the New Partnership, as appropriate;

53. *Encourages* African countries and their partners to maximize the opportunities presented by the convergence of major global policy events in the context of the post-2015 development agenda and to work to ensure that the new global framework duly considers the priorities encapsulated in the African Common Position on the post-2015 development agenda and the African Union's Agenda 2063 framework document;

54. *Invites* engagement in intergovernmental efforts to continue to improve the coherence and effectiveness of the United Nations system in support of Africa and to continue to support the Economic Commission for Africa in the execution of its mandate, particularly by working with its members to ensure that the post-2015 development agenda gives due consideration to Africa's social development priorities;

[16] The nine clusters include infrastructure development; environment, population and urbanization; social and human development; science and technology; advocacy and communications; governance; peace and security; agriculture, food security and rural development; and industry, trade and market access.

55. *Decides* that the Commission for Social Development should continue to give prominence to and raise awareness of the social dimensions of the New Partnership at its fifty-fourth session;

56. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the Economic Commission for Africa, taking into consideration General Assembly resolutions 62/179 of 19 December 2007, 63/267 of 31 March 2009, 64/258 of 16 March 2010, 65/284 of 22 June 2011, 66/286 of 23 July 2012 and 67/294 of 15 August 2013, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support", to submit to the Commission for Social Development, for its consideration at its fifty-fourth session, a report on the social dimensions of the New Partnership, including, in cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies, an overview of current processes related to social development in Africa, including recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of the work of United Nations bodies while preserving the social dimensions of the New Partnership.

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Draft resolution II
Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the post-2015 development agenda*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,[1] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,[2]

Reaffirming the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[3] adopted on 13 December 2006, as a landmark convention affirming the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities, and recognizing that it is both a human rights treaty and a development tool,

Recalling earlier operational frameworks, such as the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons[4] and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities,[5]

Reaffirming the commitments contained in the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly,[6] held on 23 September 2013, which advanced the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities towards 2015 and beyond, recognizing persons with disabilities as agents and beneficiaries of development, and acknowledging the value of their contributions to the general well-being, progress and diversity of society,

Noting the reference to persons with disabilities in the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals,[7] which shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered in the intergovernmental negotiation process,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015",[8] in which the consideration of the inclusion of disability as a cross-cutting issue across the successor set of goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda was recommended,

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* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 34-36.

[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

[4] A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (IV).

[5] General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex.

[6] General Assembly resolution 68/3.

[7] A/68/970 and Corr.1.

[8] A/68/202 and Corr.1.

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "The road to dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet",[9] which also integrated a disability perspective,

Welcoming Human Rights Council resolution 26/20 of 27 June 2014,[10] by which the Council established the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities,

Recalling the expiry of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on disability on 31 December 2014 and the decision of the Commission for Social Development to consider the possibility of establishing another monitoring mechanism, with a view to strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in social development,

Welcoming the work of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility and efforts to create synergies within existing United Nations mechanisms,

Convinced that addressing the profound social, cultural and economic disadvantage and exclusion experienced by many persons with disabilities, promoting the use of universal design, as appropriate, as well as the progressive removal of barriers to the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development, and promoting the equal enjoyment by persons with disabilities of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights will further the equalization of opportunities and contribute to the realization of a "society for all" in the twenty-first century,

Noting that, while progress has already been made by Governments, the international community and the United Nations system in mainstreaming the issue of disability as an integral part of the global development agenda, major challenges remain,

Emphasizing the importance of mainstreaming the perspective of persons with disabilities into disaster risk reduction activities, and recognizing the need for their inclusive participation in and contribution to disaster preparedness, emergency response, recovery and transition from relief to development, as well as the implementation of policies and programmes that are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities,

Recalling the request to the President of the General Assembly to organize, during the seventieth session of the Assembly, a panel discussion to follow up on the status and progress made towards the realization of the development goals for persons with disabilities in relation to the follow-up to the outcome of the high-level meeting on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities and in relation to the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as being aware of the importance of building on this panel discussion,

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[9] A/69/700.

[10] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/69/53), chap. V, sect. A.

1. *Expresses appreciation* for the work of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development in the completion of his mandate, and takes note of his report[11] and the expiry of the mandate;

2. *Welcomes* the appointment by the Human Rights Council of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities,[10] and invites her to closely cooperate with the Commission for Social Development according to the development component of the mandate, including by making concrete recommendations on how to contribute to the realization of internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, how to promote development that is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities and how to promote their role as both agents for and beneficiaries of development;

3. *Decides* to hold, at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development, a multi-stakeholder panel discussion, entitled "Implementation of the post-2015 development agenda in the light of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities", in order to further elaborate on how the existing mechanisms and entities within the United Nations system can contribute to strengthening the mainstreaming of disability, to enhance awareness and cooperation at all levels on the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and to consider the possibility and modalities of another monitoring mechanism;

4. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant regional organizations and United Nations bodies and agencies to ensure that all development policies and programmes, including those regarding poverty eradication, social protection, full and productive employment and decent work, and appropriate measures for financial inclusion as well as urban planning, accessible community and housing development, take into account the needs, rights and potentials of and benefit to all persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others;

5. *Encourages* Member States, relevant regional organizations and United Nations bodies and agencies to achieve the full application and implementation of the international normative framework on disability and development by encouraging the ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and by considering the ratification of its Optional Protocol,[12] as both human rights and development instruments;

6. *Emphasizes* the need for measures to ensure that persons with disabilities, in particular women, children, youth, indigenous peoples and older persons, are not subject to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination or excluded from participation on an equal basis with others in the implementation of international development goals;

7. *Decides* to continue to give due consideration to the issue of disability and development, including within the framework of United Nations operational activities, in accordance with relevant mandates, in order to enhance awareness and cooperation at all levels, including the participation, where appropriate, of United Nations agencies, multilateral development banks and institutions and other relevant stakeholders, while ensuring coordination and avoiding any possible overlapping;

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[11] E/CN.5/2015/5.

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2518, No. 44910.

8. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations agencies and bodies, development agencies and international organizations, and encourages the private sector, to regard accessibility as both a means and goal of inclusive and sustainable development, and therefore an essential investment that benefits all members of society, and, hence, to ensure that accessibility is an integral part of programmes and projects relating to the built environment, transportation and information and communications technologies;

9. *Encourages* the mobilization of resources on a sustainable basis to mainstream disability in development at all levels, and in this regard underlines the need to promote and strengthen international cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation, in support of national efforts, including, as appropriate, through the establishment of national mechanisms, in particular in developing countries;

10. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and all relevant stakeholders to improve disability data collection, analysis and monitoring for development policy planning, implementation and evaluation, fully taking regional contexts into account, and to share, where appropriate, relevant data and statistics with relevant agencies and bodies within the United Nations system, including the Statistical Commission, through appropriate mechanisms, and underlines the need for internationally comparable data and statistics disaggregated by sex and age, including information on disability;

11. *Underlines* the importance of closely consulting with and actively involving persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the development and implementation of the emerging post-2015 development agenda;

12. Encourages Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission for Social Development, at its fifty-fifth session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, integrating the Chair's summary of the discussions and the proposals made during the multi-stakeholder panel discussion held during the fifty-fourth session.

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Draft resolution III
Modalities for the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that, in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, adopted by the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held in Madrid from 8 to 12 April 2002,[1] the systematic review of its implementation by Member States was requested as being essential for its success in improving the quality of life of older persons,

Recalling also that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2003/14 of 21 July 2003, invited Governments, the United Nations system and civil society to participate in a bottom-up approach to the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action,

Bearing in mind that the Commission for Social Development, in its resolution 42/1 of 13 February 2004, decided to undertake the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action every five years,[2]

Recalling that, in its resolution 2014/7 of 12 June 2014, it noted that the third review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action would take place in 2017,

Taking note of the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing and its contribution to the implementation and follow-up of the Madrid Plan of Action,

Recognizing the continued need to give due consideration to the situation of older persons in the ongoing discussion on the post-2015 development agenda,

Noting the appointment by the Human Rights Council of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons,[3] whose mandate includes the assessment of the human rights implications of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General,[4]

1. *Endorses* the timeline for carrying out the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[1] as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General, which, inter alia, determines that the global review will take place in 2018;[4]

2. *Decides* that the procedure for the third review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action will follow the set procedure of the second review and appraisal exercise;

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* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 40-42.

[1] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 6* (E/2004/26), chap. I, sect. E.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/68/53/Add.1), chap. III, resolution 24/20.

[4] E/CN.5/2015/4.

3. *Invites* Member States to identify actions they have taken since the second review and appraisal exercise, with the aim of presenting this information to the regional commissions during 2017, and invites each Member State to decide for itself the actions or activities it intends to review, utilizing a bottom-up participatory approach;

4. *Encourages* Member States to establish or strengthen a national coordinating body or mechanism, as appropriate, in order to, inter alia, facilitate the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action, including its review and appraisal;

5. *Also encourages* Member States to utilize more fully, within their specific national circumstances, a bottom-up participatory approach to the review and appraisal of the Madrid Plan of Action by inviting, inter alia, organizations of older persons to participate in the review processes at the national and regional levels by submitting the views of their members on the implementation of the Plan of Action and on regional plans of action;

6. *Invites* Member States to consider utilizing, in their national review and appraisal exercises, a combination of quantitative and participatory qualitative data-gathering and analysis, including, where appropriate, sharing of best practices in such data collection;

7. *Requests* the regional commissions to continue to facilitate the review and appraisal exercise at the regional level, including through consultation with relevant regional bodies, as appropriate, by, inter alia:

(a) Providing assistance to Member States, upon request, in the organization of their national review and appraisal exercises;

(b) Organizing regional review meetings;

(c) Using an inclusive and coordinated approach in relation to the participation of civil society in the planning and evaluation processes of the review and appraisal exercise;

(d) Promoting networking and the sharing of information and experiences;

(e) Providing an analysis of the main findings, identifying key priority action areas and good practices and suggesting policy responses by 2017;

8. *Requests* the United Nations system to continue to support Member States in their national review and appraisal efforts by providing, upon their request, technical assistance for capacity-building;

9. *Encourages* Member States and United Nations organizations, where appropriate, to provide support to the regional commissions in facilitating the review and appraisal process and in organizing regional meetings to review national review and appraisal results in 2017;

10. *Invites* Member States and the United Nations system, including the agencies, funds and programmes of the system, to take concrete measures to mainstream ageing issues, including the views of older persons, into their own programming and existing United Nations mandates;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-fifth session, in 2017, a report, including an analysis of the

preliminary findings of the third review and appraisal exercise, together with an identification of prevalent and emerging issues and related policy options;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session, in 2018, a report, including the conclusions of the third review and appraisal exercise, together with the identification of prevalent and emerging issues and related policy options.

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B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its fifty-third session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-fourth session

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its fifty-third session;[1]

(b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

(a) Priority theme: rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world

(b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups:

(i) World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

(ii) Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities;

(iii) World Programme of Action for Youth;

(iv) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;

(v) Family issues, policies and programmes;

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2015, Supplement No. 6* (E/2015/26).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond

Report of the Secretary-General on promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the post-2015 development agenda

(c) Emerging issues (to be determined).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on emerging issues

4. Programme questions and other matters.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019: subprogramme 2, Social policy and development, of programme 7, Economic and social affairs

5. Provisional agenda for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission.

6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-fourth session.

C. Decision calling for action by the Council

3. Pursuant to the following decision, adopted by the Commission, the Economic and Social Council is requested to confirm the nomination of three candidates to the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development:

Decision 53/101
Nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

The Commission for Social Development decides to nominate, for confirmation by the Economic and Social Council, the following three candidates for membership in the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development:

(a) Saraswathi Menon (India), for a four-year term beginning on the date of confirmation by the Council and expiring on 30 June 2017;

(b) Ping Huang (China) and Patricia Schulz (Switzerland), for an additional two-year term beginning on the date of confirmation by the Council and expiring on 30 June 2017.

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D. Resolution and decision brought to the attention of the Council

4. The following resolution and decision adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council:

Resolution 53/1
Policies and programmes involving youth*

The Commission for Social Development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995 and resolution 62/126 of 18 December 2007, by which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth, as contained in the annexes thereto, and acknowledging that the Programme of Action provides Member States with a useful policy framework and practical guidelines for improving the situation of youth,

Reiterating that all 15 priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth are interrelated and mutually reinforcing,

Emphasizing the importance of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the World Programme of Action for Youth, being marked in 2015, and the need for a meaningful assessment of the progress made towards its implementation,

Stressing that the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including in the remaining days of the Millennium Development Goals and beyond 2015, require the full and effective participation of youth and youth organizations and other civil society organizations at the local, national, regional and international levels,

Recalling the proposed set of indicators for the World Programme of Action for Youth, contained in the report of the Secretary-General,[1] in order to assist Member States in assessing the implementation of the World Programme of Action and thus the evolution of the situation of youth,

Acknowledging the positive contribution of youth, as agents and beneficiaries of development, to the initiatives and discussions on sustainable development in the post-2015 agenda, as well as to the general well-being, progress and diversity of society, as a way of contributing to a progressively fairer distribution of opportunities for them, which will constitute a step forward to economic development, social justice, social integration and equity,

Taking note of the five-year action agenda of the Secretary-General, which identifies working with and for women and young people as one of the five generational opportunities,

Stressing that increased coordination and collaboration among United Nations entities, including with other regional and international organizations working on youth, contribute to making the youth-related work of the United Nations system more effective,

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* For the discussion, see chap. II, paras. 37-39.

[1] E/CN.5/2013/8.

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on policies and programmes involving youth;[2]

2. *Reiterates* that the primary responsibility for implementing the World Programme of Action for Youth lies with Member States, and urges Governments, in consultation with youth and youth organizations, to develop holistic and integrated youth policies based on the Programme of Action and to evaluate them regularly as part of the follow-up action on and implementation of the Programme of Action;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to continue the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, including its 15 interrelated priority areas, as a policy framework and practical guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people at the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels, while taking into account the views of youth and youth organizations as part of the effective participation of youth in society;

4. *Encourages* Member States to develop comprehensive policies and action plans focused on the best interests of youth, particularly the poor and marginalized, and to address all aspects of youth development, in line with the World Programme of Action for Youth;

5. *Also encourages* Member States to promote gender equality and the empowerment of young women and girls in all aspects of youth development and to recognize the important role of young men and boys in ensuring this;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to consider, on a voluntary basis, the set of indicators proposed in the report of the Secretary-General for their selection and adaptation in monitoring and assessing the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, giving particular attention to young women and marginalized groups, including indigenous youth, youth in rural areas, youth with disabilities and young migrants, taking into account the national social and economic circumstances in each country;

7. *Also calls upon* Member States to collect, on a continuous basis, reliable, comparable and relevant data, disaggregated by age and sex, to measure progress towards the implementation and monitoring of the World Programme of Action for Youth, and in this regard also encourages Member States to engage youth and youth organizations in the collection, analysis and dissemination of data in the process of assessing progress and evaluating youth policies;

8. *Further calls upon* Member States to give due consideration to youth issues in all appropriate aspects of the post-2015 development agenda, underlining the importance of closely consulting with and actively involving youth and youth organizations in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda;

9. *Encourages* Member States to ensure a coherent and mutually reinforcing approach while implementing all relevant agreed frameworks, including the World Programme of Action for Youth and the post-2015 development agenda;

10. *Urges* Member States to ensure the full enjoyment by all young people of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and other international instruments related to human rights, in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth;

[2] E/CN.5/2014/5.

11. *Encourages* Member States to consider including youth representatives in their delegations at all relevant discussions in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and at relevant United Nations conferences, as appropriate, bearing in mind the principle of gender balance and non-discrimination, and inter alia, to consider establishing a national youth delegate programme, and emphasizes that youth representatives should be selected through a transparent process that ensures that they have a suitable mandate to represent young people in their countries;

12. *Urges* Member States to promote the full and effective participation of young people and youth organizations in relevant decision-making processes, including in developing, implementing and monitoring policies, programmes and activities, including those related to the World Programme of Action for Youth;

13. *Reaffirms* that the strengthening of international cooperation regarding youth, capacity-building, the enhancement of dialogue, mutual understanding and the active participation of young people are crucial elements in efforts towards achieving the eradication of poverty, full employment and social integration, and in this regard stresses the importance of promoting access to nationally owned social protection and social services as an important instrument for empowering youth;

14. *Takes note with appreciation* of the increased collaboration among United Nations entities on youth through the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, calls upon United Nations entities to develop additional measures to support local, national, regional and international efforts in addressing challenges hindering youth development, and in this regard encourages close collaboration with Member States as well as other relevant stakeholders, including civil society, particularly youth-led organizations;

15. *Calls upon* donors, including Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to actively contribute to the United Nations Youth Fund in order to facilitate the participation of youth representatives from developing countries in the activities of the United Nations, taking into account the need for greater geographical balance of youth representation, as well as to accelerate the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate action to encourage contributions to the Fund;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission for Social Development, at its fifty-fifth session, a comprehensive report on the implementation of the present resolution, including progress on the achievements and challenges in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, in consultation with Member States, as well as with the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes and the regional commissions, taking into account the work done by the United Nations system, and encourages the Secretariat to consult, as appropriate, with youth-led and youth-focused organizations.

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Decision 53/102
Documents considered by the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-third session

The Commission for Social Development takes note of the following documents that were before it at its fifty-third session:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world;[2]

(c) Note by the Secretariat on emerging issues: contributions of social development to the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals;[3]

(d) Note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.[4]

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[1] A/70/61-E/2015/3.
[2] E/CN.5/2015/3.
[3] E/CN.5/2015/6.
[4] E/CN.5/2015/7.

Chapter II
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

1. The Commission considered agenda item 3 at its 2nd to 10th meetings, on 4, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 13 February 2015. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (E/CN.5/2015/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world (E/CN.5/2015/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on further implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 (E/CN.5/2015/4);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General on monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities (E/CN.5/2015/5);

(e) Note by the Secretariat on emerging issues: contributions of social development to the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals (E/CN.5/2015/6);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014 (A/70/61-E/2015/3);

(g) Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.5/2015/NGO/1-40).

2. At the 2nd meeting, on 4 February 2015, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, introduced the documentation under agenda item 3 as a whole.

Commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development, "Social development: from Copenhagen to the post-2015 development agenda"

3. At the 4th meeting, on 5 February 2015, the Commission held the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the World Summit for Social development, on the theme "Social development: from Copenhagen to the post-2015 development agenda". Following the opening remarks made by the Chair of the Commission and Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations, Simona-Mirela Miculescu, and the keynote address delivered (via videolink) by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Interregional Policy Cooperation, Juan Somavía, statements were made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations; the Acting President of the General Assembly, Denis G. Antoine (Grenada); the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, Oh Joon (Republic of Korea); and the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations, Ib Petersen.

Interactive panel discussion

4. At the same meeting, the Commission held an interactive panel discussion moderated by the Senior Adviser of Sustainable Energy for All, Elizabeth

Thompson, in which the Commission heard presentations by the following panellists: Permanent Representative of Kenya and co-facilitator of the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, Macharia Kamau; Assistant Secretary-General of Economic Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Lenni Montiel; Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth, Ahmed Alhendawi; Former President of Slovenia and current member of the Club de Madrid, Danilo Türk; and Chair of the NGO Committee on Social Development, Margaret Mayce. An interactive discussion ensued, during which the panellists as well as the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Interregional Policy Cooperation, responded to comments made and questions raised by the representatives of China, Chile, Burkina Faso and the Sudan, as well as by the observers for Nigeria and Iraq. The observer for the European Union and a representative of Transdiaspora Network, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, also participated in the interactive discussion.

Action taken by the Commission under agenda item 3 as a whole

Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

5. At the 10th meeting, on 13 February, the observer for South Africa (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development" (E/CN.5/2015/L.6).

6. Subsequently, Turkey[1] joined in co-sponsoring the draft resolution.

7. At the same meeting, the Commission agreed to the proposal of the Chair to waive the relevant provision of rule 52 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council and proceeded to act on the draft resolution.

8. At its 10th meeting, on 13 February, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.5/2015/L.6 and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for its final adoption (see chap. I.A, draft resolution I).

9. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the United States of America.

A. Priority theme: rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world

10. The Commission considered agenda item 3 (a) at its 2nd, 3rd, 5th, and 8th to 10th meetings, on 4, 5, 9, 10 and 13 February 2015.

11. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 February, the Commission began its general discussion of item 3 (a) and heard statements by the representatives of Romania, Chile, Spain, Austria, the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan.

12. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for South Africa (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) and Latvia (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia,

[1] In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Liechtenstein, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Ukraine), as well as Costa Rica, Iraq, Ghana and the Philippines.

13. At its 5th meeting, on 5 February, the Commission continued its general discussion of item 3 (a) and heard statements by the representatives of Argentina, Finland, Switzerland, France, Belarus, Nepal, Cuba, Viet Nam, Egypt, Mexico, Japan, Mongolia and Pakistan.

14. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for Mozambique (on behalf of the African States), Nicaragua, South Africa, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Colombia, Italy, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Sweden, India and Bulgaria.

15. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the International Committee for Peace and Reconciliation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

16. At its 8th meeting, on 9 February, the Commission continued its general discussion of item 3 (a) and heard statements by the representatives of Brazil, Germany, Poland, China, Ukraine, Peru and the Republic of Korea.

17. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Panama, Algeria, Paraguay, the Netherlands, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Ireland, Senegal and Botswana.

18. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the Baha'i International Community, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

19. At the 9th meeting, on 10 February, the Commission continued its general discussion of item 3 (a) and heard statements by the representatives of Cameroon, the United States, Bangladesh, El Salvador, Zimbabwe, the Sudan and Malawi.

20. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for Kenya, Indonesia, Belgium, Zambia and Rwanda, as well as by the observer for the Holy See.

21. Also at the same meeting, the observer for the Sovereign Military Order of Malta made a statement.

22. At the 9th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

23. At the 9th meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Triglav Circle; International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary; and Baltic Sea Forum.

Panel discussion

24. At its 3rd meeting, on 4 February, the Commission held a panel discussion on the priority theme "Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world". Following the opening remarks by the Chair of the Commission and by the moderator of the discussion and member of the European

Parliament, Michal Boni, the Commission heard presentations by the following panellists: Permanent Representative of Palau to the United Nations, Caleb Otto; Honorary Professor, Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Richard Jolly; Senior Principal Scientist, Climate Change Programme, DNV GL — Strategic Research and Innovation in Norway, Asunción Lera St. Clair; and Founder and Executive Director, Programme for Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Priti Darooka. The Commission then engaged in an interactive dialogue with the panellists, in the course of which the representatives of Burkina Faso, Pakistan, Brazil, Poland and Romania, as well as the observer for Iraq and the Philippines, participated. The observer for the European Union also intervened. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council also participated: Soroptimist International; Commission on Voluntary Service and Action; and International Committee for Peace and Reconciliation. The Chair's summary of the panel discussion is available from the website of the Commission (http://undesadspd.org/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/Sessions/2015.aspx).

B. Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups

25. The Commission considered agenda item 3 (b) at its 2nd and 7th to 10th meetings, on 4, 6, 9, 10 and 13 February 2015.

26. At its 8th meeting, on 9 February 2015, the Commission heard a presentation by the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the rights of persons with. The Special Rapporteur subsequently engaged in an interactive dialogue with the representatives of the Republic of Korea, Mexico, the Dominican Republic and Finland, as well as with the observers for Sweden, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Costa Rica. The observer for the European Union also made a comment and posed questions.

27. At its 7th meeting, on 6 February, the Commission began its general discussion of agenda item 3 (b) and heard statements by the representatives of Ecuador (on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States), Burkina Faso, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Korea, Brazil, China, Viet Nam, Romania, the Dominican Republic, Cuba and El Salvador.

28. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for Latvia (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine), Iraq, Thailand, Colombia, Qatar and Georgia.

29. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representative of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: International Federation for Family Development; Universal Peace Federation; HelpAge International; and Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America.

30. At its 9th meeting, on 10 February, the Commission continued its general discussion of agenda item 3 (b) and heard statements by the representatives of Austria and Argentina.

31. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observers for Malta, the Philippines and Honduras.

32. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

33. At the 9th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: SustainUS, International Federation of Associations of the Elderly, International Federation on Ageing, International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, Atheist Alliance International, Global Foundation for Democracy and Development and New Future Foundation.

Action taken by the Commission on agenda item 3 (b)

Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the post-2015 development agenda

34. At its 10th meeting, on 13 February, the Commission agreed to the proposal of the Chair to waive the relevant provision of rule 52 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and proceeded to act on draft resolution 5, on promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the post-2015 development agenda, which was submitted by the Chair of the Commission on the basis of informal consultations.

35. At the same meeting, the representative of Romania and facilitator of the draft resolution made a statement and orally corrected the text.

36. At its 10th meeting, on 13 February, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.5/2015/L.5 as orally corrected and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for its final adoption (see chap. I.A, draft resolution II).

Policies and programmes involving youth

37. At its 10th meeting, the observer for Senegal, also on behalf of Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Slovenia, introduced the draft resolution on policies and programmes involving youth (E/CN.5/2015/L.4) and announced that Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Colombia, the Czech Republic, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malta, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Slovakia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda and the United Kingdom had joined the list of co-sponsors of the draft resolution. Subsequently, Burundi, Costa Rica, France, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi and Ukraine also joined the list of co-sponsors of the draft resolution.

38. At the same meeting, the Commission agreed to the proposal of the Chair to waive the relevant provision of rule 52 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council and proceeded to act on the draft resolution.

39. At its 10th meeting, on 13 February, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.5/2015/L.4 (see chap. I.C, draft resolution 53/1).

Modalities for the third review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

40. At the 10th meeting, on 13 February, the Vice-Chair and facilitator of the draft resolution, Janina Hasse-Mohsine (Germany), made a statement in connection with a draft resolution on further implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002 (E/CN.5/2015/L.3), submitted by her on the basis of informal consultations, and orally corrected the text.

41. At the same meeting, the Commission agreed to the proposal of the Chair to waive the relevant provision of rule 52 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council and proceeded to act on the draft resolution.

42. At its 10th meeting, on 13 February, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.5/2015/L.3, as orally corrected, and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for its final adoption (see chap. I.A, draft resolution III).

C. Emerging issues: contributions of social development to the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals

Panel discussion

43. At its 6th meeting, on 6 February, the Commission held a panel discussion on the emerging issue of the contributions of social development to the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals. Following the opening remarks by the Chair of the Commission, the panel discussion ensued, moderated by the Director of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, Sarah Cook. Panellists included the Head of Strategic Projects Unit, Office of the Presidency and President, Specialized Technical Committee of the Information System of the Millennium Development Goals of Mexico, Gabriel Rivera Conde y Castañeda; the Director for Analysis, Evaluation, External Relations in the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission, Georg Fischer; Associate Professor, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Simion Barnutiu Faculty of Law in Romania, Laura Maria Craciunean; Director, Research Department, ILO, Raymond Torres, and Director of the New York Office, United Nations Environment Programme and Secretary of the Environment Management Group, Elliott C. Harris. The Commission subsequently engaged in an interactive dialogue with the panellists, in which the representatives of the Dominican Republic, Chile, Zimbabwe and Finland, and the observers for Iraq, Armenia and Botswana, as well as the observer for the European Union, participated. The representatives of the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council also participated: Asociación Dominicana de las Naciones Unidas, Canadian Research for the Advancement of Women, UNANIMA International and the Commission on Voluntary Service and Action. The Chair's summary of the panel discussion is available from the website of the Commission (http://undesadspd.org/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/Sessions/2015.aspx).

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Chapter III
Programme questions and other matters

1. The Commission considered agenda item 4 (a) and (b) at its 8th meeting, on 9 February 2015.

A. Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017

2. At the 8th meeting, on 9 February, the Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, made an introductory statement under agenda item 4, in which the Commission's attention was brought to the draft programme of work of the Division for the biennium 2016-2017 (circulated in an informal paper E/CN.5/2015/CRP.1).

B. United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

3. At the 8th meeting, on 9 February, the Director of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development reported on the work of the Institute.

Action taken by the Commission

Nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

4. At its 8th meeting, on 9 February, the Commission decided to nominate only one member of the Board, namely, Saraswathi Menon, for a four-year term expiring on 30 June 2019, in view of the financial circumstances of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development. (see chap. I.B, decision 53/101).

5. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to nominate the following two candidates for an additional two-year term on the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, beginning on the date of confirmation by the Economic and Social Council and expiring on 30 June 2017: Ping Huang and Patricia Schulz (see chap. I.B, decision 53/101).

6. At its 8th meeting, on 9 February, the Commission decided to take note, on the proposal of the Chair, of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (E/CN.5/2015/7) (see chap I.C, decision 53/102).

Chapter IV
Provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 10th meeting, on 13 February 2015. It had before it the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission (E/CN.5/2015/L.1).

2. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda and documentation for its fifty-fourth session (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision).

Chapter V

Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-third session

1. At the 10th meeting, on 13 February, the Vice-Chair and Rapporteur of the Commission, Do Hung Viet (Viet Nam), introduced the draft report of the Commission, as contained in document E/CN.5/2015/L.2.

2. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report and entrusted the Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur with its completion.

Chapter VI
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission for Social Development held its fifty-third session at United Nations Headquarters on 21 February 2014, and from 4 to 13 February 2015. The Commission held 10 meetings (1st to 10th).

2. At the 2nd meeting, on 4 February, the Chair of the fifty-third session, Simona-Mirela Miculescu (Romania), opened the regular session and made a statement.

3. At the same meeting, the Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development of the Department, on behalf of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, addressed the Commission.

4. Also at the same meeting, the Chair of the NGO Committee for Social Development made a statement on the outcome of the Civil Society Forum held on 3 February 2015.

5. At the 2nd meeting, a youth representative from Pax Romana, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, made a statement on youth-related issues discussed at the Youth Forum of the Economic and Social Council (2 and 3 February, 2015) relevant to the work of the Commission.

B. Attendance

6. The session was attended by representatives of 44 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-Member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended (the list of participants is contained in document E/CN.5/2015/INF/1).

C. Election of officers

7. In its decision 2002/210, the Economic and Social Council decided that, immediately following the closure of a regular session, the Commission would hold the first meeting of its subsequent regular session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chair and other members of the Bureau.

8. At the 1st meeting of its fifty-third session, held on 21 February 2014, pursuant to Economic and Social Council decisions 2002/210 and 2014/217, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair:
Simona Mirela Miculescu (Romania)

Vice-Chairs:
Amina Smaila (Nigeria)
Ana Peña (Peru)
Janina Hasse-Mohsine (Germany)

9. At the same meeting, the election for the Vice-Chair from the Asia-Pacific States was postponed.

10. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 February 2015, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Do Hung Viet (Viet Nam) as Vice-Chair of the fifty-third session of the Commission.

11. At the same meeting, Ronnie Habich (Peru), was elected Vice-Chair, as replacement for Ana Peña (Peru), for the remainder of the fifty-third session of the Commission.

12. Also at the same meeting, the Commission designated the Vice-Chair of the Commission, Do Hung Viet (Viet Nam), as Rapporteur for the session.

D. Agenda and organization of work

13. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 February 2015, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/CN.5/2015/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:
   (a) Priority theme: rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world;
   (b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups:
      (i) World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;
      (ii) Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities;
      (iii) World Programme of Action for Youth;
      (iv) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;
      (v) Family issues, policies and programmes;
   (c) Emerging issues: contributions of social development to the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals.

4. Programme questions and other matters:

   (a) Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017;

   (b) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

5. Provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission.

6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-third session.

14. At the same meeting, following a statement by the Chair, the Commission approved its organization of work, as contained in document E/CN.5/2015/1, annex I, as orally revised, and established time limits for statements in the general discussion.

E. Documentation

15. The list of documents before the Commission at its fifty-third session is contained in the annex to the present report.

Annex

List of documents before the Commission for Social Development at its fifty-third session

Symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title description*
A/70/61-E/2015/3	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014
E/CN.5/2015/1	2	Provisional annotated agenda and proposed organization of work
E/CN.5/2015/2	3	Report of the Secretary-General on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development
E/CN.5/2015/3	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world
E/CN.5/2015/4	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on the further implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002
E/CN.5/2015/5	3 (b)	Note by the Secretary-General on monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities
E/CN.5/2015/6	3 (c)	Note by the Secretariat on emerging issues: contributions of social development to the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the sustainable development goals
E/CN.5/2015/7	4 (b)	Note by the Secretary-General on the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
E/CN.5/2015/8	4 (b)	Note by the Secretary-General on the nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development
E/CN.5/2015/L.1	5	Provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development
E/CN.5/2015/L.2		Draft report of the Commission on its fifty-third session

Symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title description*
E/CN.5/2015/L.3	3 (b)	Draft resolution on modalities for the third review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002
E/CN.5/2015/L.4	3 (b)	Draft resolution on policies and programmes involving youth
E/CN.5/2015/L.5	3 (b)	Draft resolution on promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the post-2015 development agenda
E/CN.5/2015/L.6	3	Draft resolution on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development
E/CN.5/2015/CRP.1	4	Draft programme of work of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for the biennium 2016-2017
E/CN.5/2015/NGO/1-40	3 (a) and 3 (b)	Statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

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